

THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 83rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HELD ON 17th, 18th and 19th April 1987

at Chiswick Old Town Hall

(To be read in conjunction with the EC Report to Conference and the Final Agenda)
(New Time Block/Subject Block Format)

<u>ATTENDANCES:</u>	<u>No. of Branches represented</u>	<u>No. of Delegates sitting</u>	<u>Branches not represented</u>
Friday 17th 11.40 a.m.	16	35	Seaham, Manchester, Eccles, Bournemouth, Yorkshire and E. London
2.05 p.m.	18	44	Bournemouth, Eccles, Manchester and Seaham
Saturday 18th 10 a.m.	17	30	Camden, Eccles, Manchester, Seaham and W. London
p.m.			
Sunday 19th 10.15 a.m.	19	35	Eccles, Manchester and Seaham
2.05 p.m.	19	40	ditto

FRIDAY:

(1) Election of Chairman and Deputy

Nominees: (Chair) Gary Slapper - Islington Br. by E. London & Bolton Brs.
Keith Graham - Bristol Br. " N. W. London Br.
Dick Donnelly - Glasgow Br. " Glasgow Br.
(Deputy) G. Slapper " E. London Br.
Paul Bennett - Manchester " N. W. London Br.

Keith Graham then did not wish to be elected.

Vote for Chairman taken first: For G. Slapper: 11 (Appointed)
For D. Donnelly: 6 Lost

Vote for Deputy Chairman: For D. Donnelly Moved and seconded: For: 11
(Appointed)

(2) Permission for Delegates to sit. (Failure to send in Form C - Rule 8)
Brs. as follows: Manchester. Due to lack of quorum, sent in letter to explain.
Glasgow. Delay caused by Auditors, sent letter.
Birmingham. Sent letter asking permission to sit. Due to

lack of attendance at Br. meetings. Also have problems in finding suitable
place for meetings. No Manchester delegates. P. Bennett was not appointed
by Br. to sit due to no Br. meetings. Glasgow Br. submitted Form C a week
after the deadline of two months. Moved. Com. Goodman. Vote. In favour
for the delegates from Glasgow and Birmingham to sit at Conference. Vote:
11 for. 0 against. Carried.

Page 2 (See Final Agenda) Item (3) Items of Business. Howard Moss suggested
that voting should be taken at each end of Resolutions. He felt it might lead
to confusion if left to end of each Time Block. Discussion (Dis) entered into
by other delegates as to how this would work. This arrangement for voting was
set up by the ad hoc Cttee appointed to investigate Conference set up.

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Item 2 (b) R.22 to accept the new Brs. Dundee and Merseyside. They had had a Special Meeting to consider Conference Agenda. Moved by Conference that they may sit. Each Br. which raised the Resolution (Res.) for Conference should open up in turn on that subject. Dis. then takes place by delegates, then each Br. Res. is wound up by that Br. Vote on each Res. then taken. Delegates discussed how new set up to work. Each Time Block is to finish at predetermined time as per Agenda. All votes are taken at the end (V numbers). Many members and delegates felt doubt. Howard Moss Res.: Conference take each Res. separately as listed on Agenda and all dis. on each Res. and vote takes place before the next Res. Chairman suggests that this was not in line with the Standing Order (S. O.). Vote: For 10. Against 14 Lost Further dis. took place on this subject.

Item 1. Time Block A. It was pointed out by Chairman (Page 2) enquiry to S. O. Cttee Conference is instructed. S. O. Cttee. Conference has been instructed to keep within the 40 minutes.

ROLL CALL. Number of delegates sitting at 11.40 a.m.

Amendment to Rule (R.) 27. Dundee Br. (look at Report of Parliamentary Cttee and Swansea and Islington Brs.) Dundee to open up on Res. That the R. be abolished. R. as current: "Candidates for political office shall have passed an examination set by the E. C." Socialist understanding should be all that is required. No test should be required. Br. opposed to this R. The Br. suggests the questions put to candidates would not be that different from what's put forward to members now at debates and meetings. It should be up to the Br. to decide who stands at Elections. (REPORT of the S. O. Cttee at 11.40 a.m. - 35 delegates sitting. Brs. not sitting: Seaham, Manchester, Eccles, Bournemouth, Yorkshire and E. London) Dis. Com. Cottis. Opposed to the Res. Members have always passed some sort of test to prove their ability for whatever responsible jobs and we say this arrangement should continue.

Parliamentary Cttee Report. Later. Newcastle Br. has supported the proposal of Dundee Br. Cliff Slapper has a list of the questions for this test (drawn up in 1967) which are put to candidates for the test. Com. from Newcastle Br. felt that the particular questions are a bit obscure. He suggested that more practical questions should be asked on the Questionnaire. Also Brs. should decide who should be suitable for the job of candidate. C. Cook Birmingham Br. took up Dundee's argument that we should not have people like Robin Day asking candidates questions. Com. Cook's view is that we certainly would get these types of questions asked. He reminds us that he has heard Party members been virtually floored by questions. It was not that they are not good socialists but that they are not trained; they were tricked into answering certain questions. Com. Cook agrees that this test might be totally inappropriate, let's not kid ourselves that any member can fulfill particular tasks like this, most of all on radio or T. V. We do need to learn. Camden Br. Are also opposed to this Res., that anyone who speaks for the Party should have the test. Glasgow Br. Also oppose the Res. D. Donnelly points out that the test is very academic and theoretical. If a local election is required in a certain area the best people to decide who shall be their candidate is the local Br. (Glasgow Br. was split in this discussion.) He understands Com. Cook's point of view. This R. is a tradition. Mixed views seem to be expressed from Glasgow Br. Com. Moss. No report from Swansea Br. Serious canvassing is in progress for the local election 7th May. Couple of meetings are being arranged. Swansea Br. invite members to help. Re Dundee Br. Res. Swansea favours amendment proposed by Dundee. In a practical view. When they appointed their candidate they took into account the ability of that person. There was a means test of some sort. Expressed his view that the test was outmoded (out of date). They found that their candidate was necessary. A Br. decision. Com. Percy-Smith. Bristol Br. They could vote for the proposal put forward by Dundee. They still think there should be a formal procedure with better questions as suggested by Com. Slapper. Islington Br. discussion still on. (One hour passed). Com. Knox Edinburgh Br. Supports Dundee Res. We feel that (Com. May

interrupted) agrees with Com. Cook it might be an idea to seek professional advice on tackling the media.

ISLINGTON BR. REPORT C. Begley. Lost some members through lapsing. There had been little change in membership. Average attendance at meetings had been 24 members and 17 visitors. Best debates were against the Greens and Red Action. Six week end education events had an average attendance of forty. This includes excellent talks and video films. In summer we had outdoor meeting which included festival events where we recruited two active members. Set up a Group at Luton. Literature sales had been increased. New Branch Annual Meeting to discuss reports and improve propaganda activity.

Election Cttee Report. Contesting Islington. Meeting weekly of Election Cttee. New activity, posters, new car very useful in taking stall to a regular spot, now investigating new areas which had not been covered. Post-free reply card informing public that we have a candidate standing in our area. That have had nine replies to date. They have set their target at 500 votes this coming election. They suggest all Brs. should take up this idea. Stickers had also been used for propaganda purposes. Progress.

Rule 27 Dundee to wind up. Not done. "Vote" that this R. be abolished.

V1 For: 13 - 34 Against. LOST

Item 2 Reports to Conference from Brs. and Central Organiser.

Moved and seconded that fill in gaps at end of each section (Block). MOTION.

Vote. Re-allocate Br. reports as an on-going item. In favour For 18.

Against 4.

Item 3 (a). Islington Br. Res. C. Begley. Deals with targets and the Party as a whole in propaganda activity. We should aim for targets a bit more forward planning. (See Agenda).

Opening. End.

Item 3 (b). Islington Br. Com. Chapman opened on Res. About a Writ against the Labour Party, to invite the Press and to make a big din out of it basically as a stunt. This is about the mis-use of the word 'Socialism.' The E. C. instructed the Br. not to proceed with this idea due to legal costs and the aims. Com. Knox Edinburgh. Favours 3 (a) but is most opposed to Islington Br.'s Res. 3 (b). Reminds that this would be a bad idea using the capitalist system, and would not benefit the Party in any way. Com. Moss. Swansea. Asked what the E. C. reason was on their decision? E. C. Member response. Writ. Cox. Reluctant to accept this idea. In view of the problems that might arise it was discussed at great length with the E. C. There was question of what the objective would be, and would show the Party in bad light. It could have been a disaster for the Party. We were very unsure that the Party as a whole would have agreed if the E. C. endorsed this idea. Bristol Br. Com. K. Graham. Res. 3 (a) Feel that the Res. was right but are not opposed to the Res. It should be put into action. Res. 3 (b) about the Writ were going to vote against this Res. being a stunt: this is not a stunt - but publicity. This is not good publicity. Is hard enough for people to take our ideas seriously let alone this idea. Enfield. Com. Bradley. 3 (b) Res. You get attention and respect. We should never battle against such a large organisation in this way. This could cost enormous expense to the Party. Remember we are just talking about words. The ideas might look good at first but looking harder there may be many problems. Res. 3 (a). The members in London tackle many Cttees at once. We should have more people working together. We oppose Res. 3 (b) but agree with 3 (a). Com. Harwood. Guildford Br. Res. 3 (a) We like the idea of propaganda. Report shown above. See item 4 on Agenda.

Sum up. Islington. Com. Chapman. Writ. We are not interested in the result but to point out what Socialism is. We hope the media would pick up this against the Labour Party.

Vote. V2 (a). For 26 Against 13.

Chairman mentioned that the Gen. Sec. (John Usher) had been seriously unwell and is not able to make an appearance at this Conference, so our Asst. Gen. Sec. (Paul Hope) is sitting in.

V3 (b) Vote For 14 Against 41 LOST

BRANCH REPORTS Birmingham. Com. Cooke. Letter read out, all there is about Form C. Propaganda and literature still in progress, finding it difficult with members.

Bolton. Weekly meeting still, lit. sales at Blackpool Conference Labour Party. Plus meetings with N. W. Brs. Series of meetings were taking place.

STAND ADJOURNED UNTIL 2 p.m. LUNCH BREAK

Recommended 2.05 p.m. 44 Delegates sitting. Brs. not represented Bournemouth, Eccles, Manchester and Seaham

Time Block B. Page 3 of Agenda.

Swansea Br. Res. Membership Item 6. Floor Res. That the vote be taken after discussion after 6 and 7, prior to discussion on Item 8. Moved Com. Donnelly Glasgow Br. Com. Davies seconded. Vote: For 24. Against 3. Carried Swansea Branch. Item 6. Res. Application for membership. Swansea Br. feel that the questionnaire should be re-written, shorter. The questions should be more specific. Should reflect what the Party stands for. We shall also be supporting N. W. London Res. on the amendment (V5). N. W. London Br. on amendment. Com. May opened up. They pointed out that there are no tricky questions and are not designed to catch new applicants out. Com. pointed out that for Central Br. members would need to explain in as much detail on each question because they are not at any Br. and not questioned there. They are the basic questions that should be asked. We are opposed to shortening this, or cutting it down. We would want to make sure that the applicant understands the fundamental idea of socialism. End. Bolton. Addendum V4 Opened up. He feels we should know what we mean by a socialist Party, not as in the Labour Party and Communist Party.

Discussion. Report from FORM A SCRUTINY COMMITTEE. (J. Law) All applications to membership are always referred to nearest Br., if not they shall join Central Branch. Some members don't want to join nearest Br. due to the distance to travel. This is a matter of routine. Newcastle Br. C. Slapper. It is not up to the Form A Cttee to negotiate the questionnaire. On the subject of applicant being in isolated part. The questions on economics are important, they are included in the questionnaire. I suggest that it is full of economics. Numbers 3 and 4 are economics questions. J. Law. Most applicants manage to fill out the questionnaire very well. Some applicants have not yet got the basic ideas right, but J. Law always answers the applicants to sort out the points. It has been pointed out that in the questionnaire we never mention the Party's attitude to Parliament. Sometimes they reject us on this. We don't take applicant at face value and refuse them without careful consideration. E. LONDON. Discussion. I find the present questionnaire quite satisfactory. J. Law. Applicants sometimes don't understand what surplus value is. We should include something on Parliamentary activity. The E. C. decides the questionnaire. We may submit it, but at the E. C. discretion.

BRISTOL BR. Com. J. Percy-Smith. What are the basic features of capitalism? This should answer the question of surplus value. This should cover that. J. Law. We answer all the points raised by the applicant with what we know is the Party case but at the same time if the applicant is so wrong in answering the question we should answer him/her. Br. supports the amendment (Glasgow). Re Bolton Br. amendment. The question of economics is a very important question. He recalled that an applicant thought that Lawyers and Doctors are members of the capitalist class. Question of class must be clear in the applicant's mind as with the class struggle. Very important questions. We don't feel that any change is required to this questionnaire. D. Donnelly. Glasgow Br. Vote on 4, 5 and 6. Addendum Vote Bolton Br.

Swansea Br. Winding up. These questions may have been decided to catch people out. There are questions on economics. It is important that they understand the ideas - not just repeating jargon. We do expect an explanation on each question, not just "Yes" or "No." Number 11 is a question about Parliament. If they answer violence they obviously don't understand the Party case. They think that a shorter more distinct questionnaire is required. Vote. V4. For 24.

Against 31. Lost

Bristol Br. Com. J. Percy-Smith. E. C. should be re-organised. Res. V10. The E. C. has purpose of representing the Brs. They are speaking for the individual members, administration and money which has to be. There's no elitism and they are not leaders, which was the view point put forward by Dundee Br. Members.

Islington Br. Com. C. Begley. What efforts have been made by finding out how many members from outside London could make it to H. O. once a month to sit on this Cttee? Because if they can't it won't take form. Res. V10. General Purposes Cttee. Hammersmith Res. We are generally opposed to this R. and the two tier system. Com. K. Graham, Bristol Br. Generally under the impression that E. C. have not had a quorum. We suggest the E. C. meet on Sunday afternoons every other week so as to encourage outside members to come to H. O. Newcastle Br. Com. G. Slapper. Pointed out that E. C. is elected by the membership. We need an E. C. to serve the interests of the membership on the whole, therefore we support the changes proposed by Hammersmith Br. Furthermore we oppose the amendment proposed by Bristol Br. Bolton Br. are against Hammersmith proposals because the result probably will be the same. He suggested that E. C. meets outside London because there are more Brs. away from London. There are becoming more Brs. outside London than in the past. We feel there's no reason why the three main Brs. in London should dominate the administration. He then went on to question the state of democracy in the Party if this should go on. The problem with the Res.'s is that they don't address that problem. He suggested the possibility that the six members on the E. C. may well be the same as the six on the General Purposes Cttee. It gets worse. The view was expressed that the admin should be where the members are. He suggested that there is a decline in London of membership but an increase outside London. E. C. member Com. S. Easton pointed out an information error earlier spoken - that the E. C. often lacks a quorum is misleading and untrue. That statement is rubbish and misleading. There has only been one occasion where a quorum was not obtained. As for the structure of E. C., anything which makes it easier is welcome. Yorkshire Br. That this particular subject of E. C. is very important and any re-organisation is good. The geographical location should make no difference. We should be more organised for the best effect. Com. C. May, W. London Br. It hurts me that I hear the suggestion that members outside practise a completely different type of socialism than members inside London. There seems to be a feeling that just because the E. C. and administration is based largely inside London that there's a feeling we are trying to do down the provinces. When you look at the membership outside London it's about 201, London Brs. 181 - not a lot of difference. The E. C. deals with considerable amount of work. Although the work involved is of basic importance to the administration, why don't outside members help out coming into London? This action would make no particular difference to the Party. It is noted that London is an easier place to get to. Lancaster Br. Don't seem to be too worried, but members outside don't seem to have any possible access to the E. C., or have no possible way of getting involved in admin.

16 minutes before Block C. Hammersmith Br. winding up. That they sit outside London so they meet once a month to involve other members. To involve provincial members. The view was the E. C. was un-democratic. Bristol Br. Com. K. Graham. We don't disagree with the substance of the Hammersmith proposal. The delegates should take into consideration that the present system is not working. It was also pointed out that no minutes were being taken. Some new structure we do need. He suggests that things must be done in the right order via drawing up terms of reference. 'The Party shall be administered by a General Purposes Cttee of six members including the General Secretary and Treasurer and an E. C. of twelve members, not more than six of whom shall be from the London area. This Cttee shall be elected annually by vote of the Party. Nomination shall be made by the Brs. Members shall be eligible to stand for and serve on both Cttees concurrently, if so elected. Vacancies on both Cttees shall be filled only by seeking further nominations and subsequent ballots. Vacancies occurring after the First October shall not be filled.'

Motion by Hammersmith Br. R. 12

V7 Page 4 on Agenda. For Bristol Br. amendment. For 31. Against 24. Carried. Collection taken. £58.87.

V8 Subs. Res. Hammersmith Br. R. 12. For 20. Against 32. Lost V 9, V 10, V 11, V 12, V 13, V 14, V 15, V 16 and V 17. Because V 8 lost these now become redundant.

V 18. Amendment Glasgow

Bristol Br. Report. Bristol Br. continue to hold weekly meetings. Over the last year two Br. meetings and two propaganda meetings per month. Attendances of non-members has been reasonable to poor. Br. membership has increased from 8 to 12 in the course of the year. Many Br. members still live a considerable distance from Bristol, which makes co-ordinated activity difficult. However members attended the Tolpuddle Rally and recently helped Swansea Br. members in their efforts. Br. has also arranged to send a speaker to Chippenham C. N. D. and hopes to initiate meetings in Taunton. We hope to see some further growth in the year ahead.

V 18. Glasgow Br. amendment to Res. For 34. Against 12 - Carried.

V 19. Islington Br. motion as amended. Subs. For 33. Against 21. Carried.

RECORDING PROBLEM

END OF TIME BLOCK B.

Item 9. Camden Br. opened up on V 20. Res. Raised the objection about the charge against Com. Skelton and also the omission of the voting figs of the Ballot delegate meetings R. 33. Moved and seconded that the vote be taken on the Res. above. VOTE be taken. For 15. Against 13. Carried. V 20 Vote. (Instructed Res. from Bristol Br.) V 20. Camden Br. Res. For 13. Against 29. Lost

Swansea Br. V 21. Opening. Com. H. Moss. Put this item on Agenda 9 (b) in order to ask the Conf. opinion on the Res. passed last year. Our understanding of it was clearly not the understanding of the E. C. and possibly wasn't the understanding of other Brs. When the Res. at last year's Conf. was passed it followed that this Conf. resolved that the official title be S. P. G. B. It is now official policy that we call ourselves, whenever suitable "The Socialist Party." The way we interpreted it was the word: 'Suitable.' When members or Brs. consider it suitable to use it then they do so: when not suitable they use the full form. The way it has been seen by the E. C. is that we should use the term: "Socialist Party" and only in the extreme cases use: "The S. P. G. B." What Swansea Br. thinks is that we should slowly move towards using "Socialist Party" as our name. We think some times it is more suitable to use the full form so people know who we are and to make the difference between us and other political parties. In the Election campaign we are calling ourselves the S. P. G. B. and the Manifesto has that. In the body of the leaflet we call ourselves the S. P. Swansea Br. regards this as the best solution. According to a recommendation passed at A. D. M. we should be doing something else. We want to make sure that no votes are cast in error. Therefore we call ourselves "S. P. G. B." not to get confused with the Labour Party.

Bristol Br. opens up on discussion on access to Party records. This is in connection with Mr. Keating's request. K. Graham. Reports to Conf. See Item 10, Page 5

Newcastle Br. Com. C. Slapper. On access to Party records. For a democratic party. Should in fact have free access to all Party records except membership records. The records would be used for history research. His view on the last item is that it is unlikely for voters to confuse our Party with the Labour Party on the same Ballot paper, because they are side to side.

He puts forward his views on this matter. He pointed out that we should be consistent with the use of our name. Islington Delegate. Chapman. To add to the name discussion. The whole idea is totally confusing. Two names. Taking just "the S. P." connects us with the Labour Party's past. Com. L. Cox puts his views across. If we pass V 21 Swansea Res. this may be a recipe for disaster, also it would lead us back to the situation we came from. There must be set guide lines. Advertising is where most confusion is expressed. We must be consistent in this matter. "S. P. G. B." official title and "S. Party" for political scene. That was the aim of the E. C.

Item 10

Reports to Conf. Treasurer (Com. Pat Wilson).

Com. Wilson expressed his difficulty in talking about money in a Party which wishes to abolish it. Take the accounts. Party Officer in addition to report. You may think of Com. Wilson as being the most capitalist-minded member of the Party. More details of the accounts. The report involved all the figs which cover the whole of the Party. Why do we need £3,000 plus to pay the Rates? We do monitor many other items such as the telephone and we send as little mail as possible by first-class stamps if not required. These are things to look at and does effect the over-all expenditure, but not a great deal. £70,970 from the round figure to £80,000 on national administration. What kind of income does the Treasurer look for and what can we expect from the members? Now there are six hundred plus members with the Dues you may think they are designed to cover this. If you examine the Dues figure over the year it has improved somewhat at £12 per head, less one-fifth for Brs. to keep; that about three hundred and twenty members find themselves able to pay Dues. Others for whatever reason, either in a Pension situation or otherwise may be excused. It then turns out that only three hundred plus members pay Dues. We also get donations, small and large amounts. People often pay the odd £5, that's where the figure of the additional £2,500 comes from. There are also 15 to 20 members who pay into the Fund-raising account, sometimes on the basis of £2 per month, or £10 or £20 per month. Not many members with that Standing Order, a very useful sum. All these various incomes produce an income of just over £7,000 against an expenditure of £18,000. You can say that we need from somewhere else to keep the national admin going another £11,000 in addition to what we get in the routine way. The second section is our Lit., S. S. and pamphlets. By and large we aim to produce and sell them at a cost that is incurred in producing them and you must bear in mind that there are pamphlets that lay around. In due course we probably get back what we had to pay the Printer. Pamphlets tend to remain saleable for a long period of time. That's not the case with the S. S. We know that of the 3,500 S. S. printed each month we only sell 2,700. If we had to recover the cost of S. S. and its distribution out of the 2,700 odd we sell we would then have to charge 50P to 55P per copy. And at that price we wouldn't have to subsidise it. In the period of the year we have to subsidise to the tune of £9,000 per year at the present going rate. There is an increase of income on pamphlets basically because we produced two this year and we placed a substantial advert in The New Internationalist. This had a good response. In some cases people were asking for copies of two pamphlets of every issue we had advertised. That gave a good boost to the income, which was sales of £800 compared with £300 in the previous year. There is a miscellaneous item of £400 which was the down payment of single item of a business which distributes political material for public libraries world wide, where there's money for this kind of thing. They bought a stock. The balance of £800 is now being collected. And that's the sort of income we need. The tapes are the most satisfying item; its easy to see why. People are getting £2 worth of value when they buy a tape because if they dont like the ideas they can wipe it off and use it for something else! We hope that the cost of hiring the Conf. hall would arrive out of the collections in the three days - but we dont. This costs at around £300. The last item is Publicity and propaganda. In a sense there's no real income. We have to pay

out to send speakers around to Brs. to help them to get going. That costs about £500 to £600 per year. Put all these three deficits together and it comes to £10,000 on running admin, £11,000 on subsidising Lit. and £7,000. Its getting near to £28,000. Most of the rest of the income comes from legacies left to us by members of the Party who are no longer here and anticipate the revolution. In the last four years we have got through almost £100,000. We dont anticipate most of that income from legacies. This money comes from time to time but in two years time if we dont get this kind of money we are going to be in a very serious situation, maintained at the present level of expenditure. It has to be borne in mind that there are only 300 members who are fully paid up. It may be well to consider the odd £2 week in and week out from your wages, or even Pension, to donate to the Party.

Page 5 of Agenda V 21 and V 22. Item for dis. was withdrawn.
Islington Br. delegate repeats what Com. C. Slapper said about the use of the Party name.

Still on Block C. V 21 and V 22. Swansea Br. winding up on their Res. Com. H. Moss. About the use of the names, brief points. On certain occasions the S. P. name is appropriate. We should be able to use the flexibility of the names but not in newspaper articles. There the full name should be used. He gave the example that the Communist Party for a long time have used two names: 'The Communist Party of G. B.' and 'The Communist Party'. Nobody in their case gets confused with them.

Vote 21. For 19. Against 35. Lost

Vote 22. For 17. Against 35. Lost

Collection £58.57

BRANCH REPORTS

Dundee Br. Com. Ratcliffe. Formed recently. Br. meeting every week. Not a great response with propaganda and postering. Member of Br. was asked to address a local Labour Party and is continuing to sell S. S. in pubs, 20 to 50 per night. Twenty now. They also attended the Scottish Labour Party Conf. with leaflets and S. S. selling. Hope to use the outdoor platform. Mostly involved in outdoor activity. Hope to participate in 1988 Election.

Camden Br. Held two series of meetings, well attended.

Enfield and Haringey Br. Were a very small Br. covering outer and an inner London suburb. Nine propaganda meetings held. We hope to set up Dis. Groups further out in our area. We have high Br. rent and too few members to cover the costs.

Glasgow Br. Pub selling falling

RECORDING PROBLEM

Guildford Br. Com. B. Rubin. We have made eight members but we have also lost some members due to personal circumstances rather than any lack of interest. Also we were unfortunate to lose the hall in the pub, and they are also cracking down on fly posting. We have managed to get a new venue and a series of Debates are planned for the forthcoming months, which includes many interesting people. We also are going to support Islington Br. on their election campaign.

Hammersmith Br. Our membership still remains at six. We are still a small Br. We have had three public meetings and we continue to sell Lit. on a regular basis.

Lancaster Br. Our membership is ten; two transferred and one dropped out. Against the fall in attendances at our meetings we decided to change the format of them by a speaker would agree to do a talk, followed by a speaker intro-

ducing a topic. Then we would split into Groups. Success in this form of meeting. The advantage of this is instead of members just filling the seats they are now involved actively in propaganda with the visitors. Part of the success of this type of format is at 11.30 p.m. (chucking out time) people are still milling around discussing ideas. We also sell in pubs and a new member has helped greatly in organisational work.

Newcastle Br. Com. C. Slapper. Br. has 17 members. Eleven are regular attenders at meetings. We had a successful week or two in connection with the Jarrow March 1986. Sold almost 100 S. S. at various events connected. Debates have been with N. U. M. General Secretary, also debates on religion and other organisations. We sell in the Town centre every Saturday. Pub selling on occasions in traditional pubs. Also starting two or three outdoor meetings in the Town centre, fairly successful. It has doubled Lit. sales. Generally in a better way. The local Conservative M. P. is, hopefully, going to debate with us in the future. This particular M. P. is well known through trying to live on the dole for a week. We have put a big effort into this Debate with the use of posters, etc.

N. W. London Br. A member has transferred from another Br. which we were glad, being a young and enthusiastic member. Average Br. attendance of ten, we feel is very satisfactory. We have also found new place to meet at Swiss Cottage and hope to have outdoor Lit. selling in the summer at the Precinct. Average attendance at public meetings were (Library) 30 members and 12 non-members monthly. Very good talks were given, and all members are always welcome. Some meetings were held at Camden for a time and also outdoor meetings at Hyde Park, weather permitting. Some Lit. selling took place at Underground Stations with various results. We are still alive, very keen and hope to have socialism next year.

Merseyside Br. Was formed with eight members, now we have seven. Meetings have been held - one public meeting a month, also at Liverpool and Mersey. Also future possible debates have been arranged. Selling of S. S. in the City centre takes place. We hope to open up a stall to sell Lit. and pamphlets. Also a few members have letters published in the Local papers.

W. London Br. Are going through a very difficult time. Most members live a long distance from the Br. Five members regularly meet every month. We have co-operated with Hammersmith Br. for some public meetings.

S. W. London Br. We find that the same visitors come back to our meetings regularly. Mostly through personal contact we manage to get people along, rather than fly posting. A member always takes time on Saturdays to sit outside H. O. giving away free back issues of the S. S.

S. Yorkshire Br. Have eight members. We have lapsed a few this year, which is shown in the report to Conf. It is well to point out that since last year we have changed from "S. Yorkshire" to "Yorkshire" Br. because we used to meet at Doncaster. Now we are based at Leeds to cater for the widely-scattered membership. That was the reason for the name changes. We have found it very difficult to carry out propaganda in the Doncaster area because the Labour Council saw fit to prosecute people who fly posted, and as everyone is aware that is the cheapest way of advertising our meetings. In the past year or so we have very much concentrated in the Leeds area on debates as opposed to meetings, one being "Women and Socialism." The S. D. P., Green Party and C. N. D. debates have all been very successful. C. P. Meeting. Fifty plus a month Lit. sales around Town and bookshops, and letter writing to a paper. We hope to form a Dis. Group in the Derby area, Bakewell. It was also pointed out if Brs. and members update the S. S. directory when they change telephone numbers or address, this has been a very important way of contacting the Party.

END OF TIME BLOCK C AND OF FRIDAY SESSION

START OF SATURDAY AGENDA. TIME BLOCK D.

Recommended at 10 a.m. Thirty delegates sitting. Brs. not represented Camden, Eccles, Manchester, Seaham and W. London.

Item 11 Annual Conf. and Delegate Meetings. Chairman suggests that this be discussed at end of Conf.; asked delegates should agree this.

Subj. Res. V 31 Bristol Br. Com. K. Graham. Opening up. This is more or less the idea that was proposed at the last A. D. M. Its simply intended to make the S. O.'s that govern Conf. much more explicit and much more comprehensive than the present set of S. O.'s which are 40 years old and currently used. One thing I find which is unfortunate in a way, that we didn't get many reactions when we canvassed these to delegates.

Vote: For 37. Against 11. Carried.

Amendments to Clause 3 (See Agenda 5)

A Lancaster and Swansea Br. Comment. RECORDING PROBLEM

B " " " Br. No comment made

C Hammersmith Br. amendment. That we agree. Contributions should be short and always short.

E Bolton Br.

Hammersmith Br. Clause 7. Nothing said. General Dis. N. W. London to oppose these. We dont agree with re-arranging the mechanics. We dont see that this will improve the matter. If you dont have the knowledge and the quality which give you the ability to expound the Party case, believe me we are approaching the whole thing wrong.

Bristol Br. Winding up. Com. K. Graham. To deal with the arguments from N. W. London Br. delegate said that the current S. O.'s being 40 years old doesn't make them incorrect. I agree it doesn't make them correct either and we tried to point out the problems before. Time is wasted finding out what the procedures are. Some delegates N. W. London dont seem to worry about delegates not putting their hands up. Over a number of years we have seen Conf. disrupted by members. All this makes for bad dis. and bad-tempered delegates and could become unpleasant business. These S. O.'s prevent this from happening. Bristol Br. is concerned about disruptions. There have been ideas about possibility of suspending proceedings or removing delegates when they get disruptive. There have been practical difficulties in all these ideas and delegates should be discouraged by this. Bristol Br. will be supporting the amendments A and B from Lancaster Br. that support the time on speaking. Hammersmith Br. amendments - we shall oppose C and D on the grounds of flexibility. We do make special allowances, mainly a lengthy matter about sub-Cttees, about Reports; there may be more time required on these subjects. Bolton Br.'s amendment we shall vote against for the same reason of flexibility. We should oppose Hammersmith Br. amendment on Clause 7 on the grounds of the extent to which any non-delegates should be allowed to speak: this is something which is for the meeting to decide. And we shall support Hammersmith's amendment of existing Clauses 10, 11 and 12 on grounds that it does seem possible for delegates to try to move on to taking of a vote or motion when they already have had their say.

Winding ups. Lancaster and Swansea Brs. No winding ups.

PAGE 7 of Agenda

ROLL CALL

It was agreed by Conf. Bournemouth delegate be allowed to sit.

V 23. For 35. Against 9. Carried.

V 24. For 32. Against 8. Carried.

V 25. For 14. Against 28. Lost

V 26. Bolton Br. Amendment. For 3. Against 35. Lost

V 27. Hammersmith Br. amendment. For 14. Against 27. Lost

V 28. Hammersmith Br. amendment. C. For 14. Against 27. Lost

V 29. Lancaster and Swansea Brs. Amendment B. For 28. Against 13. Carried

V 30. " " " " A. For 28. Against 13. Carried

V 31. Subs. Res. from Bristol Br. as amended by V 30, 29, 23, 24: For 37
Against 11. Carried

We are now acting under guidance under these Res.'s. Chairman: They apply now once they are carried.

V 32. N. W. London Br. Opened up. It is suggested by us that if the Br. does not submit a Form C they shall be allowed to sit and take part in the dis. but are not allowed to vote.

Dis. Com. Cooke. Birmingham Br. That type of reasoning is not known. Its one of the possibilities that if a Br. decides not to submit its Form 'C' it is also unable to have a special meeting to discuss the Agenda. Those two things are not logically connected; reason could be that certain main members could not attend any meetings. Our reason is that two of our Officers suddenly disappeared - that didn't make a considerable difference to Br.'s consideration of the Conf. Agenda. Therefore I don't think this is a good R. There should be a better reason why they should not sit.

Dis. - amendments to R. 8. V 32 Page 7

Com. L. Cox. If a Br. is unable to submit a Form 'C' they may be in difficulty. In those situations they can write in with an explanation. S. O.'s Cttee should always be let known well in advance within the period they would normally be required to submit their Form C. S. O.'s Cttee requires the information like the Br. membership figs at the end of the particular six month period. We can then prepare the numbers required for votes. This is very important in this area.

Hammersmith Br. to open up. RECORDING PROBLEM

Top of page 8. Item for dis.

Camden Br. We think that members who pay their dues should be made aware of the dues of members excused the R.

Report of the S. O.'s Cttee. Item 12.

General Dis. Bristol Br. Com. J. Percy-Smith. Commented on the two amendments. N. W. London and Camden Br. being mean-minded and petty on the more serious amendment. Hammersmith Br. We felt it more democratic. On thinking of the implications of this R. we thought on the surface it was going to create more problems. First of all there's the question if we allow Central Br. members to vote and all of their votes held in the same way as individual votes from Brs. it still raises the question that Central Br. members will be given a voting vote but members from Brs. won't have that so what about members who don't turn up to vote at the meeting when they discuss the Agenda? That means they are at a disadvantage that Central Br. members are not. But you argue that Br. members should make the effort to come along to discuss the Agenda, but there are good reasons why members cannot necessarily be there. The second point I would like to mention is that one thing important is the motion of informed consent that arises out of collective dis. It seems to me that when Br. members discuss the items on the Conf. Agenda together they arrive at a different conclusion than if they perhaps would by themselves. Individual members seem to me to be voting in a vacuum. This devalues the vote. Why bother with the meeting? Why not just have a postal vote? That to us seems unsatisfactory.

Glasgow Br. I think we have at the moment been flexible and understanding with the S. O.'s as they are. We think it works well with the new system. Hammersmith Br. 23. What appears to be democratic is in fact less democratic. In some ways it seems better to join Central Branch because that makes sure you will be able to vote on everything. We are opposed to the amendment by Camden Br. for the same reasons expressed by Birmingham Br. Com. Ron. Cooke.

Newcastle Br. Com. C. Slapper. On the question of Camden Br. dis. there are already procedures which cover the whole question of non-payment of Dues and

those are adequate as they stand and should not be related to democratic voting. And the two issues are separate. 'The Br. deplores the pettyness of sentiment in Camden's item for dis.'

Guildford Br. Com. J. Howell. Point of information. Not directed to Chair. Com. L. Cox, answering a question put by Com. J. Howell of Guildford Br. in connection with the position of voting by Central Br. members: "The present R. relating to Br. membership (that's R. 22 as amended in 1979) is: from 6 - 19 you get two votes, 20 - 21 three votes, 30 - 31 four votes, 40 - 41 five votes and so on. From 6 or under to 19 for every full ten members you get an extra vote. As regards Central Br. the formula is for every ten votes."

N. W. London Br. We think the arrangements are more business-like, and are all right as they stand.

Dundee Br. We are in favour of the proposals by Hammersmith Br.

Swansea Br. Discussed the voting arrangements. One of the reasons there is a low vote from Central Br. is they cant get together to discuss the Agenda. So its misleading to say they have a greater voting power through the postal vote.

Glasgow Br. Put its view across that it is as democratic as it could be under the circumstances.

COM. S. EASTON (E. C. Member) Urged delegates and members in general to think very seriously whether the present is entirely adequate in connection with proportional representation. Report of the S. O.'s Cttee at 10.30 a.m.

Thirty delegates sitting at 10.00 a.m. Brs. not sitting, Seaham, Eccles, Manchester, Camden and West London.

A member of the S. O.'s Cttee replied that the formula for Brs. was two delegates and votes for 6 to 19 members and a further vote for every further full ten members. For Central Branch members the formula was 1 (one) vote allotted for each full ten voting, for or against respectively.

Newcastle Br. Com. C. Slapper asked question to the Brs. who submitted proposals on this. In the case of the N. W. London R. change my understanding of the change of R. 8 is it would mean that any Br. that fails to submit its Form 'C' in time, any reason whatsoever, the delegates in question could sit with permission of Conf. but may not vote. For example Glasgow Br. would be utterly disenfranchised in the entire Conf. regardless of any reason or background. We think that is a pretty horrific proposal and a bad one with no flexibility. Camden Br. Res. suggests that on the basis of paid up members, and they have no vote if they dont pay up their dues - that is outrageous. Or do they mean that Dues waived play no valid part of this? At the moment Brs. send H. O. all their dues other than the members whose Dues have been waived. This proposal is nonsensical.

Camden Br. replied to that question from Newcastle Br. Reminds them of their Res. as on the Agenda they have their voting rights as paid up members. Glasgow Br. explains Camden Br.'s proposal.

N. W. London Br. Com. C. May. Expressed his view that if Brs. cant fill in their Form 'C's' and have no valid reason otherwise, therefore there is no reason why they should have representation. There should be no excuses. There should be no representation of non-active members who dont pay Dues. (V 32 and V 33 dis.)

Com. L. Cox S. O.'s Cttee Dealing with the suggestion that Com. Moss said about the present way the Agenda is set out relating to the Time Blocks and subject, but it would be possible to embody shorter Time Blocks but the aim was to reconcile the Time Block with particular subject matter. Fitting one whole subject in with one Time Block. That was the best way to do it. We will have another look at it if Conf. dislikes it, but we think the subject and Time Blocks are all right. V 33 Hammersmith Br. R. 23 amendment. What appears to be more democratic is in fact not so, but it is, it has to be, its more democratic than what Com. Easton calls: "rough and ready system".

have now" but which actually is a very serious undemocratic anomaly where you have rather a large membership who take no part in consideration of the Agenda, never even seen the Agenda because not being members of Central Br. they dont get one sent to them. If they dont attend the Br. they dont have a chance to consider it or pass judgment on Res.'s, etc., which are on it and yet they have a vote. They have a vote in fact because its their card-holding membership which entitles that Br. to a greater number of votes than another Br. - yet they play no part. Its no good pleading about members having difficulties about getting to Br. and exceptional cases make fair law. The only excuse would be is the special reason that the larger amount of members that usually turn up cant for an unknown reason. I understand that, but you cant build your democratic process on the basis of difficulties. The only argument is that its pointed out this is not likely to happen every year at every Br. You ought not to judge the merits of this new proposal relative to the de-merits of the existing system, not on the basis of an unforeseen event that may not occur. I think it is fair that only members who play an active part in turning up at Br. have any vote: that has to be more representative.

12.00 Noon approaching ...

Bristol Br. Com. K. Graham. Pointed out the difference of Central Br. members and Br. members.

Winding up. V 32 N. W. London Br. I would like to stress that our proposal would be more representative of Brs. We didn't say that we wanted to stop delegates taking part altogether.

Winding up for R. 23. Hammersmith Br. We feel that our amendment would improve the current situation, and we hope members would take special consideration in discussing the Agenda.

V 32 N. W. London amendment to R. 8. Vote: For 4. Against 51. Lost

V 33 Rule 23 Hammersmith Br. amendment. For 25. Against 28. Lost

END OF BLOCK D

Report from S. S. P. C. received. (Chairman asked delegates to agree to this). Agreed by Conf.

Proposals from the S. S. P. C. on the Election Special for the S. S.

S. S. P. C. One of the things the Cttee dealing with for the Election is some sort of newspaper format. We got in touch with members. We expected the E. C. to approve it. We thought the E. C. put a stop to the idea. There has to be a publication, separated from the S. S. P. C. We must get the go ahead as soon as possible to avoid the rush before the Election. The Conf. has pointed out that the matter was brought up at the E. C. the Tuesday before. A

Glasgow Br. member asked if the Irish Br. could print this material and why not? Chairman at that time didn't think this question was in connection with the subject. Delegates thought that this question was inappropriate.

Com. J. Percy-Smith. If an Election was called for in May or June there's no point in hurrying the work five days before the Election is held. We want it well in advance. We aim to have this ready before 1st May. I don't think the Irish printing is a good idea. We already have Calverts and wish not to have an alternative. Calverts expected any last-minute request would have a tight schedule. The Irish Party is out of the question. You must trust that the S. S. P. C. have done their homework on this. The E. C. seems to believe that we dont know what we are talking about. I would like to ask a member of the E. C. to explain why they turned down this proposal.

Glasgow Br. was ruled out of order. Chairman decided to allow him to speak. A shouting match went on. The Chairman was out-shouted.

Bristol Br. Com. K. Graham. Does seem to think that as many members as possible should take on Election activity even if they dont have candidates. Should we have a modest price, or something to produce that we can give away?

Newcastle Br. Com. C. Slapper. He spoke on the S. S. P. C. circular. Will the

production of a separate Election Special cause the S. S. P. C. any trouble in retaining enough Election material for the S. S. itself?

Floor Res. Com. J. Percy-Smith, seconded by Com. Critchfield: "This Conf. affirms that the Party must have a special publication available for sale, separately from the S. S., during the coming General Election: that as in the opinion of Conf. the scheme laid out by the S. S. P. C. is likely to be the only effective way of achieving this it recommends the E. C. to endorse this scheme at its next meeting." Vote: For 34. Against 9. Carried.

Com. J. Percy-Smith added to her earlier comments. That we have over a number of weeks been collecting material both for the S. S. and also for the Election Special. We have enough material for both issues. She expressed concern about the S. S. being used just for Election purposes if the Election was before the S. S. was issued. Twelve pages was thought to be a good size. Com. Easton explained that the E. C. thought that the Election Issue would be a supplement with the S. S. and they left it for the Conf. to discuss the details further. It was also said that the Election Special was an excellent idea.

Glasgow Br. agrees on the decision of the E. C. on this. Trying to sell it three weeks before Election, people trying to get rid of the hundreds of leaflets put through their door. Four thousand copies was recommended as an idea. A give away. Everyone's giving away Lit. at that time. Four pages is a better idea, against selling.

Swansea Br. Agreed that it should be a give away, and shouldn't compete with the S. S. its difficult to sell the S. S. let alone selling the Election Special.

Com. C. Begley. The Br. Election Cttee favour a free. Five thousand plus copies would be required even on "A 2" folded size.

Some Parties will spend money like water on Election material, said Harry Young. It is an event worth going into and an obligation putting our ideas across. A short message with a least amount of expenditure.

Com. C. Slapper suggested that even 10 P is a reasonable price. £500 should be put into this project. It should be left to the S. S. P. C. to decide these matters.

Com. A. Buick proposed that it should be an easy problem to give away. Content and design and material should be the main important thing, including good cartoons. He supported this Res. This should be priced but could be a give away.

Com. J. Percy-Smith reminds it's not the contents but the principle of the Election Special. S. S. P. C. had no strong commitment on cost or content. No insert can be produced. It is out due to timing. A pamphlet should outline or give further details why they should vote for the S. P. G. B. and many other Election issue subjects. This is in addition to the Election Manifesto. We need to produce some sort of publication other than the S. S. article on the Election.

Floor Res.

"This Conference affirms that the Party must have a special publication available for sale, separately from the S.S. during the coming General Election that as in the opinion of Conference the scheme laid out by the S.S.P.C. is likely to be the only effective way of achieving this, it recommends the E.C. to endorse this scheme at its next meeting"

Vote: For 34 Against 9. Carried.

TIME BLOCK END

Item 14. S. S. Res. Time Block E. 1.00 p.m. to 2 p.m. Res. Swansea Br. Opened up. Item 1. Com. H. Moss mentioned the Treasurer's expenditure twice the income, increases the price of the S. S. Are delegates going to increase price to 40 P? This is not bad considering the price of other types of Lit. on sale in the market.

Item 2. Dundee Br. Should be converted to a newspaper format, weekly. The S. S. fails in two ways at the moment: to convince them of the immediacy and relevancy of the socialist case.

Islington Br. Item of Dis. Com. Mike Chapman. Questions and Answers. Should be on the inside cover of the S. S. to explain to readers what the Party case is. This would be very useful to new readers. It would outline the basic facts on the Party's case and where we stand. This should be printed every month on the inside cover.

Item 15. Reports of the S. S. P. C. Com. J. Percy-Smith. Talked about the visit to Calverts. Very useful in finding about the technical aspects of the layout and printing of the S. S. This helps the understanding of how we produce the S. S. We shall be improving the Editorial page in the S. S. with better statements.

General Dis. Hammersmith Br. asked about Dundee Br. Res. There's a lot of practical difficulties. Covers have to be designed and at the moment we don't have enough people to lay out and design or even write to produce a weekly Standard. There's not enough people to do this publication. N. W. London Br. agreed with what Hammersmith Br. pointed out. About putting the S. S. up, were opposed to this Res. of increasing it to 40 P. We think it should be subsidised. We do lose money on this. This is part of our case when people at Hyde Park mention this. On Questions and Answers, we asked the S. S. P. C. there should be real questions on the basis of questions that members of the public ask sometimes at Hyde Park. We also should not make mistakes in the S. S. on facts. We must always put across the truth. There is room for improvement in the Editorial Cttee. Swansea Br. disagreed about what N. W. London Br. said - that the S. S. was always correct in the 1940's.

Newcastle Br. Com C. Slapper. Agrees with Com. Johnson about the mistakes made in the S. S. since 1940. Were against the price rise. We should be looking at how we can boost the sales of the Standard. Talked about covers. Some have sold just on the covers. "Against all war" was a best seller, very eye-catching cover. "Socialists against racism" was a good seller because they are strong issues in the mind of the working class at the moment. Use of larger lettering is very useful to catch people's eye in the street. As for content, propagandist and journalist have a role in the S. S. We should lean towards the first, propagandist. Sense of urgency should be put across.

Islington Br. Com. C. Begley. Were in favour of raising the price to 40 P, or 30 P to unwaged. We should get our own print facilities going to produce the S. S.

Edinburgh Br. Com. Knox. Supports Swansea Br. Res. The argument comes forward at every Conf. that if you put the price up of the S. S. you effectively cut down the sales of the S. S. This is not true at all. We would not sell any more S. S. if we even dropped the price. Its the members efforts not the price which sells the S. S. Were against Dundee Res. on a weekly paper as Hammersmith Br. explained.

Dundee Br. answered. Some people were surprised the S. S. was only 30 P. but we sell many of them for 20 P to the unwaged. We should be getting our own print facilities so we can produce it cheaper. Islington Br. Com Chapman. The price of the S. S. Reminded what the Treasurer had said. We should be self sufficient. Then we could move towards a weekly paper. We should be investing our money into these areas. Guildford Br. Com. J. Howell. Price. I am against the weekly idea. We should have a Stop Press column as an insert printed by the Print Cttee.

Bristol Br. Com. K. Graham. S. S. P. C. cope remarkably with the S. S. as it is

(i) now. They have a big job on their hands. I reject some of what Com. C. Slapper said on the propagandist/journalist^c approach to the S. S. There should be an element that does not under-estimate the ability of the readership. We agree with Islington's proposals of questions and answers. It would be useful to have a section of the S. S. for new readers. That would be a better idea. A short section of clear analysis of what the Party stands for. Glasgow Br. We agree with Dundee's weekly newspaper issue. As we're a small Party with only about two hundred active members we have enough problems with getting members involved with this idea. Many members are doing more than one job on many Cttees. This would impose too much on those members. We have not got the resources as yet. Com. J. Percy-Smith. N. W. London Br. referred to mistakes. It is not the job of the Edit. Cttee but the writers. We trust they have done their homework. Please check they are factually correct. It is not the job of the Edit. Cttee to research articles again. Covers - we accept they are important, but we have a new member involved in layout for the covers. We are investigating improvements. Content must convey many ideas and are dependent on many articles submitted to us. Please feel free to submit any articles they wish to see in the S. S. We are trying to get hold of a Press Card so we may attend Press Conf.'s. We do need a Stop Press and we shall be working on it. We should have a weekly. The S. S. P. C. should report to A. D. M. on this issue and its obstacles.

V 34. Vote: For 25. Against 28. Lost

V 35 Vote: For 2. Against 47. Lost

Item 16. W. S. J. Res. E. London Br. That it be discontinued. We are not successful in raising sales in other countries. The other Companion Parties are more concerned in their own Journals than selling this one. Bolton Br. amendments 37 and 38. Opened. They are in favour of the W. J. We are an international movement. We should continue it on a bi-annual basis.

Hammersmith Br. V 36. Opened. (see Agenda)

Reports. Item 17. W. S. J./Print Cttee Report. Com. Buick. W. S. J. sales have not been good and not self-financing. This should be achieved. We should increase price to £1. and reduce the quality of the front cover, printed at H. O. We have to increase the pages from 48 - 56 and appoint a circulation Manager so we can get a basic income for 700 copies, and hope to double subscriptions. Fifty Pence was about the price of production when we started. Content has been no problem on articles for two issues a year. Half of the articles have been written by our Comrades in North America and other Companion Parties. The next issue will be out soon.

Print Cttee Report. Com. J. Howell. The manifesto for Swansea Br. campaign was printed by us. Two items. We have reached the limit of what our Print Cttee can do and we can do "A 3" size. We can produce things quickly. If we had a new machine - a professional machine - we could produce W. S. J. I would recommend the E. C. to spend money on a good reliable machine, reconditioned. Computer Invest Cttee Report. A computer would go towards improving type-setting, saving the Party a lot of money. Com. J. Percy-Smith already does it this way. With the use of firms which deal with transferring from disc the information ready for print. Two items would be very valuable for the Cttee's work.

N. P. C. Report. P. 8. Com. H. Moss. Talked on what has been produced lately by the Print Cttee and are to be congratulated on their work.

Dis. Bristol Br. It is important to get computer equipment for the purpose of word processing. This reduces the cost of type-setting. Use for pamphlets and leaflets. I stress the need for the Party having this. "W. S. J." Thinks we should remain with it. We need to communicate with the world.

Birmingham Br. Com. Cooke. Party members are learning how to publish and we need this sort of equipment. Its good to see this area improving.

Islington Br. Com. C. Begley. Praised the Miners Strike pamphlet in content and appearance, and the new pamphlet 'Socialism as a Practical Alternative.' Cover is as good as a glossy cover. Do we need a pamphlet on state capitalism when we have an excellent book? Likewise William Morris. Whose ever heard of him? Enfield and Haringey Br. W. S. J. is a very important journal. We should be able to send a copy of the W. S. J. to people abroad. There is a need for this kind of journal. There must be a drive to advertise this Journal. We should not let it go.

Glasgow Br. Feels the articles are boring, and some of the articles are too long. He expressed it as a piece of self-indulgence some members have taken part in. We're on a loser and we should ditch it.

WIND UP. E. London Br. Subs. Res. We all hoped it would develop and blossom but it hadn't. The facts are it brought in £1,610 in 1986, return £600.

(See Treasurer's Report). We should have overseas section in the S. S. We are losing money on this and I hope you will accept our motion.

V 36. Hammersmith Br. amendment. Vote: For 6. Against 45. Lost

V 37. Bolton Br. amendmt. Vote: For 3. Against 47. Lost

V 38. Vote: For 6. Against 45. Lost

V 39. Subs. Res. Vote: For 9. Against 40. Lost

Item 18. For dis. Lancaster Br. Com. Bess. (see Agenda). It should contain artwork and poetry putting across ideas. From members and non-members The advantage would be that it could put across ideas to which non-political readers would be introduced. It should have different outlets than the S. S. Newcastle Br. Item for dis. Should we sell books which dont entirely put across the Party's case. For instance books by Marx have got sections in that dont always agree to the Party case. They should read them before rushing out to increase the sales.

Bristol Br. Item Com. K. Graham. Commercial distribution of the Standard through Companies like W. H. Smith's. Price is one aspect. A bound volume would be more attractive to buyers at a good price, or a pack of pamphlets and a current copy of the S. S.

Discussion of items. This idea of putting together Party pamphlets had already been tried over forty years ago and we should by now try it again.

S. W. London and Lancaster Brs. We feel its a good idea and could reach people that are not that interested in politics. People who are not members of the Party could write in with their poems or stories expressing their ideas in a more imaginative way. It would be a means of reaching out to people and could make people think along our Party's issues.

Islington Br. Com. C. Begley. We see plenty of advantages in Lancaster Br.'s idea. We should sell books written and co-written by Party members, or ones which dont give an organisational position, more of revolutionary position. Such as Ragged Trousered P. etc.

Guildford Br. Com. J. Howell. Pointed out that there are plenty of unknown artists that cant wait to get their works published. Com C. Slapper looked into commercial sales of the S. S. some years ago (Yorkshire Branch) and on his lack of success.

Newcastle Br. Com. C. Slapper. They convinced me (not for political reasons) want to sell the S. S. Their emphasis was on profit all the time. Given the fact that were only selling a few thousand nationally, and the cover price the appearance on the S. S. was not consistent, but something's been done about that since and the format inside. There would have to be slightly more in it before they take it on. Once we had passed the threshold of viability they then would be happy to take it on as a trial basis. If we could sell 6,000 they would possibly be able to raise it by ten times. Com. Grant. Price seems to be the major factor in why they dont take it on. Making up a pack of S. S. would be an advantage to them if they were to consider handling it. There does not seem any more room for any other publications as suggested by

Lancaster Br. The S. S. should be looked into to widen the appeal to the readers.

Item 19. Time Block F

V 41. V 43. Amendments to R.'s 10 and 17. Dundee Br. Opened. We think that members are capable of propagating the Party's ideas through handbills and should be trusted.

Addendum. Swansea Br. V 40. Opened. Com. H. Moss. We thought advertising meetings such as handbills and leaflets does not have to be passed by the E. C. We seem confused over this ruling.

Hammersmith Br. Opened up. (RECORDING PROBLEM)

Islington Br. Opened on V 45. Sub. Res. Com. M. Chapman. We were putting together a pre-Election leaflet months ago. We wanted people to get interested in the Party case before there was any talk on the Election coming up. To get their attention. We put together this leaflet called: "WHY" on the front cover. Inside would be a list of the worst things under capitalism we can think of, and on the back page at the bottom we would put: "Published S. P." This was to stimulate some sort of interest. Then we were told we had to put the D of P on the back. By doing this it defeated the point of the object. We were not trying to put across an Election political message. The D of P gave all the answers to the questions, because in the following week or so we were going to put out a leaflet called: "WHY NOT" which would answer these questions. It took away the point of the whole exercise.

Bristol Br. Item for Dis. Com. K. Graham. The D of P does distinguish us from left-wing organisations. In the case of Islington's idea it killed it stone dead. However the D of P as it reads is written in an historical way but it very much still stands today.

Lancaster Br. It is pointed out that parties like 'The Greens' and many others don't ever put their D of P on their leaflets. We have the advantage of showing to people what we stand for.

Swansea Br. Sometimes the D of P is not appropriate to certain leaflets. There was a case where we printed a questionnaire of what do you think of the speakers ideas? We had to put on the back the D of P, which gave away the answers. There should be exceptions to this R. when it is not appropriate.

Dis. It should be up to the Br. or Cttee or the E. C. to say whether it is required on certain leaflets or handbills.

Newcastle Br. Com. C. Slapper. On this item on the point of the D of P distinguishing us from other Parties, this is not the case. Shows a lack of confidence of the Lit. itself and the Br.'s ability to put forward the socialist case. Every article embodies the Party's case. The socialist argument is in print and is very different from the political test by other Parties.

COLLECTION £55.05 P.

A vote was taken whether Com. Waite has permission to speak as she tried to speak without raising her hand first. Vote: For 21. Against 6. Carried. Question to delegates: 'Why don't you want the D of P on the leaflets since they have been since 1904?'

Edinburgh Br. Com. Knox. I agree with what Islington Br. said and Lancaster Br. I feel we should distinguish ourselves from left-wing organisations. So can't we have a short modern version of our principles written in modern, punchy, up-to-date language, along the lines of where the Party stands.

N. W. London Br. I don't support the idea of leaving the D of P off the leaflets. (Com. Young). We can't have the D of P on all publications enough. Not one person has come to me and said: "I can't understand them." No attempt should be made to cutting it down. I don't see that it will make more progress

leaving out the D of P.

Guildford Br. Com. J. Howell. The D of P doesn't give our case completely and its written in such archaic manner that most young people wouldn't bother reading it. I feel it should be re-written.

Com. Easton (E. C. member). It is not mandatory on leaflets or publications of a certain size. Its all right on pamphlets and S. S. because of the space. Com. L. Cox pointed out that the D of P are still relevant to us and expresses to people that your principles have not changed for over eighty years. Introductory leaflets should have the D of P on them. It ought not to be mandatory to have it on. It should be according to what kind of leaflet it is and what it serves. It would be an advantage to put some sort of footnote on the bottom saying it was formulated in 1904 and these ideas are still relevant today.

WINDINGS UP. Islington Br. Com. Mike Chapman. The leaflets do put over socialist ideas.

Bristol Br. Com. K. Graham. I am embarrassed not with the content but the presentation of the D of P. We feel people can be put off by this style of presentation.

Vote: V 40. Swansea amendmt. For 26. Against 25. Carried.

Vote: V 41. Sub. Res. Dundee Br. For 25. Against 28. Lost

Vote: V 42. Hammersmith amendmt. For 17. Against 34. Lost

Vote: V 43. Dundee Br. Subs. Res. For 31. Against 21. Carried

The vote was re-counted because they contradicted each other.

Vote: RECOUNT. V 40. For 21. Against 31. Lost

Vote: V 41 recount. For 27. Against 27. Lost

Vote: V 43 recount. For 31. Against 21. Carried

Vote: V 44. Hammersmith Br. For 14. Against 40. Lost

Vote: V 45. Islington Br. For 25. Against 26. Lost

END OF TIME BLOCK F. SATURDAY SESSION

Sunday Time Block G. 10.15 a.m. start. Page 9. Agenda

Item 20. S. W. London Br. V 48 Subs. Opened. (Not much said)

V 47. Amendmt A. Enfield and Haringey. Opened up. Contribution from non-members appear in many Companion Party Lit. There must be a positive Res. saying this existing practice must be stopped. The amendmt will be dealt with first. If that is carried we shall not proceed with the addendum. Dis.

Bristol Br. Com. K. Graham. We recognise the precedents of non-members articles appearing in the publications and the argument and if there's a good piece that supports the Party case we should use it. There is a danger that the author's views may be incompatible with ours. Dis. on V 46, 47 and 48. Guildford Br. considers that all articles written in the Standard should be judged by the Cttee on their value of propaganda.

Vote: V 47. For 37. Against 15. Carried

ROLL CALL. 35 delegates sitting. Brs. not represented Eccles, Manchester and Seaham.

V 48. Sub. Res. Vote. For 46. Against 6. Carried.

V 51. Glasgow Br. Subs. Res. Opening. Clause 6. Comrade was not there to open up.

V 50. N. W. London Br. Opening. We were not happy about the wording of this with regard to the armed Forces being used by a socialist majority.

Enfield and Haringey Br. Is in the same spirit as the last Res. from N. W. London Br. Clause 6 is good enough as it stands. We leave this option open to if a socialist majority would use the armed Forces. Its difficult to know before it happens.

Islington Br. Item for dis. Opening. Implications of Clause 6 in D of P. It

depends on the material condition at the time and the situation.
Birmingham Br. Dis. If force will be used it would be an anti-democratic minority. What does the majority do faced with this minority who wish to put an end to the democratic means to socialism? It would be highly impractical to expel or deport thousands of people. Force might be used in support of democratic position.

Swansea Br. Dis. Com. H. Moss. There has been a lot of views on this subject in the Party. The instructions from Swansea Br. are to abstain on this because we didn't discuss this much at any length. Our points are: first of all in answer to many questions asked - What will we do under the circumstances of armed Forces suppressing a socialist majority? It has been said that there will be no armed Forces by then. Are we likely to have Forces when we have a socialist majority, as like racism, etc.? This clause is the only one which speculates, unlike the others. That makes this seem rather out of place. Second point. When the D or P was formulated in 1904 they probably had in mind some sort of transition period between the political revolution and the social revolution, socialism as such. It is said in the Party at the moment there is no in between, there's either capitalism or socialism. Third point. Who controls the armed Forces? They are controlled by the elected government. If that authority is in the hands of the socialist majority it would be abolished and remain abolished. They can only take their orders from the legally elected majority, therefore they are no danger. Fourth point. Why when we have a socialist majority will we want to keep the armed Forces on if the armed Forces are under our control? There may be a small section of people who might use violence. This could happen in the first year or even five years after, or any time. Does this mean that the armed Forces will have to be kept on just in case? I don't think it does. Any social activity will have to be dealt with by the majority in the best way. There may be a case where force may have to be used to oppose that violence. Final point. At the point of change over it has been argued that we will have to retain the armed Forces between capitalism and socialism. What is meant by a point of change over? If either under the hands of the capitalist majority or after when we have a democratically socialist majority, there does not seem any in between. It depends on the situation of control. The point of change over does not exist.

Bristol Br. We also are instructed to abstain on this Res. and amendmts. There's an implication in this Clause which we feel is serious and should be discussed. How to interpret it? And this needs to be clarified.
Dis. We may not be talking about the armed Forces as they are used today. If there's a few capitalists with machine guns, surround them and starve them out. We don't know what would happen. We shall convert them to a democratic use for a socialist purpose. There won't be a command structure, people wouldn't accept it. A socialist tool.

Guildford Br. One important fact about conditions that will exist before the revolution are that they will be very similar to conditions just after the revolution, and socialist sociality - democracy - will have to be looked at much wider than just putting your cross on a piece of paper. This transition must be a long one. The vote might be a short one but it will need a long period. We should be putting into practice before the ideas and practicality of socialism before "D" Day. During this time candidates will be urging workers in many ways the ideas of socialism and the alternative. Some reforms might be O K, as in access to information. The guarantee is the democratic understanding and behaviour of the population as a whole and the advantages, and this would come from examples which they can see.

Com. P. Lawrence. Questions have come forward about the practical implications of the armed Forces at the time. The whole point or focus of the discussion is what happens when a socialist majority captures power? We work under the democratic control. These are serious problems that we will have to discuss, and some members are divided on this Party position. It is said that the

N. P. C. is in direct opposition to the Party policy on armed Forces.

Chairman reminded that the above sentence was ruled out of order. "I am committed to uphold the Party position."

Glasgow Br. Their point of view is: Should the occasion arise then we will deal with it. If we have to use force we will do so.

Com. Easton (E. C.) We wont know if there is a socialist majority until there is a public statement to say so. The vote is therefore an important one. We are very unlikely to use violence.

Com. Cox. Its the violent undemocratic minority which we would deal with. The armed Forces will be converted or changed from an instrument of the State into an organisation which the socialist majority may not use. We therefore must make the distinction of the armed Forces being used and armed Forces being converted from a machine of the Government. We may need to make minimum restraint.

Com. Grant. Socialism is not defensible by means of violence, in the same way that it wont come about through violence. Non-violence technique could be used to achieve our aims with the minority.

Com. C. Slapper Newcastle Br. Pointed out that Clause 6 is the one which distinguishes us from anarchism tendency on the one hand and Leninism on the other. Newcastle Br. has instructed us to vote for this item. The important word should be conversion of the armed Forces. As long as we have capitalism we would still have the armed Forces. We cant have a mixture of the two societies.

Com. Smith. Some of the services of the armed Forces would be used in circumstances like floods and earthquakes, and also the transportation of food supplies to the needed areas.

N. W. London Br. Put the point forward that it has never been the Party case that when we have gained control the armed Forces will be dismantled straight away. Its not the Party case. Members should be reminded on the Party's case on violence as laid down in 1977. It said the control of the armed Forces during this period will be an effective deterrent to any violent attempt without any force being used. There will be no socialist army and could be used for other reasons.

Central Br. member said that there would be a vast change in attitudes even before the socialist revolution. Just with one per cent of the population.

Enfield and Haringey Br. On amendmt. Winding up. Com. Bradley. The aim of our amendmt is to reflect unnecessary division in the Party. We all agree that none of us would want a minority to disrupt the establishment of socialism. And how this process should be managed in a thoughtful way. The D of P is not in the least out of date. The danger point could be said when there's a small amount of people and it begins to be perceived that its going to take off.

N. W. London Br. Winding up. Is very important when we speak to other people we must make clear what we mean by Clause 6 because this is how socialism is going to be established.

Glasgow Br. A lot of Comrades seem to think there's something sinister in this. Our position is simple. What's brought this about is the attitude that some people dont agree with Clause 6. The Forces are going to be used as an agent to free the people. We should be able to answer questions on this in the correct way. It is very important to keep Clause 6.

VOTES. V 49. For 27. Against 20. Carried.

V 50. Not taken.

Floor Res. that we go directly to V 51. "That we do not take Vote 50."

For 28. Against 1. Carried.

V 51. Subs. Res. Glasgow Br. Vote: For 36. Against 9. Carried.

LUNCH-TIME. END OF TIME BLOCK G

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION: Start of Time Block H

Item 22. Dundee Br. Open up. The Party should try to get the Party's ideas across and we should be addressing Conf. to this subject. We should be finding the best ways to get our case across to the general public. Our time would be better spent on this subject.

Review of the Party's progress and forward thinking/planning.

Bristol Br. Com. J. Percy-Smith. The Conf.'s arrangements seem to be very satisfactory. In our proposal we suggested we had time set aside for workshops, and for the reasons that we could review propaganda and publicity with members, and sub-Committees to make plans for the year ahead. This should be arranged for next year. These should be held on site at Conf.

10.30 a.m. Report: 35 delegates sitting. Not represented at Conf.: Eccles, Manchester and Seaham.

Item 22 and 23. Dis. Glasgow Br. Item 23. Qualification for Party membership. Requirements of membership at the moment - pass a knowledge test. What we don't seem to require from members is any type of activity whatsoever. Members should not do nothing. This is a problem right through the Party. It should be important that as many as possible members should get involved somehow. Some members aren't seen at all. It may be accepted that they can't pay dues, but they at least could get involved in activity. We can't lapse these members. It's the case throughout the Party that only a few members do all the Party work. My view is this Party must have in some way more membership. Brs. should be allowed to lapse this dead wood.

Com. C. Slapper. Newcastle Br. They endorse the arrangements of Conf. Agenda but we recommend that workshops should be implemented. At least one of the Time Blocks should be put over to the workshop. I don't agree with Glasgow's suggestion. We can't presume that these members are inactive as socialists. Some members were once very active. On Dundee the role of the Party is to get socialism. The importance of education. We should work towards a situation where we can cope with questions put to us. We shall need to develop this area. It's good that we should consistently criticise statements, e.g. the Party's view on violence, rather than take this example as the final say.

FLOOR RES. "This Conf. recommends the E. C. to include at least one workshop session, to be organised by relevant sub-Committees in the timetable for Conf. 1988." Moved. Com. J. Percy-Smith. Seconded. G. Marcelo. Vote: For 35. Against 1. Carried.

2.20 p.m. Report. 40 delegates sitting. Not represented: Eccles, Manchester and Seaham.

Hammersmith Br. Dis. of forward planning. Com. H. Goodman. We have to discuss the best way to use our resources. We have to look at the way things have changed. Some members have used papers like the N. M. E., which is an ideal way of getting through to the public. Efforts should be directed much more to the media. At the moment the media think we are uninteresting, irrelevant and nobody wants to know about us. We have got to make it interesting to get into those places. The S. S. should be pushed much more, to as many areas as possible.

Com. Easton. It's not just trying to get our name across, but the ideas to as many people as possible. On L. B. C. radio, phone-in programmes have been an ideal way to get our message across. We've become known by Brian Hayes.

Lancaster Br. If all the small Brs. got together there would be a better chance for organisation. There should be much more co-operation in activity between Brs.

Hammersmith Br. There is no way to lay down conditions with members. Some of us are very active, some do nothing but you can't tell them you can't come to the Br. unless you do something - that's likely to put you off going there.

Islington Br. Com. C. Begley. We should try to get hold of the Press Card. This would have two benefits. One, we would be informed of up-to-date news, and we would also be meeting other journalists to talk to and put our views

across. Last year the Publicity Cttee put a pamphlet in "The New Internationalist." This was a great success, but not so much in "Marxism Today" and a few others. We should be aiming at "Right to Reply" on Channel 4 and Radio Phone-Ins and so on. Br. activity at the moment has to be maintained and built upon. The post-free reply card asking for information is an excellent idea to reach those people who may even have a slight interest in the Party's case. I would urge other Brs. to take on this idea. The stall is an idea. Every Br. should have one out once a week at a regular time. Street selling should be done at every opportunity, outside Stations and anywhere else. On the Glasgow suggestion, the question is: How much work is involved in keeping this so called "dead wood" in the Br.? The only work I can see is the Br. Sec. having to write an occasional letter to these members. I would rather have 20,000 members of the Socialist Party and so many active. I think credibility in size is strength. This is what the capitalist perceives. The workshop should be incorporated into Conf. - at least an hour and a half every day next year.

East London Br. Com. P. Deutz. One point of view is that the task for Socialism is a long one and life is a short one, so many members don't want to commit too much time on Party activity. We should try to encourage non-Party members in helping with some tasks. Conf. should be much more about the exchange of ideas between members, who generally don't see each other in the year. Some time should be set aside to discuss these matters. This would give individuals opportunity to get involved in ideas.

Swansea Br. There are times there is a lot of negative dis. instead of action. How many times does the Party get involved in Local Elections? Local Elections are a cheap way of getting our ideas across. More Brs. should get involved. This is important. It takes very little resources and even manpower.

FLOOR RES. Moved M. Chapman. Seconded Nick Davis. "That the S. S. P. C. operates an experimental six months insertion of Questions and Answers in the S. S. to start as soon as possible. The situation can be reviewed at A. D. M." Vote: For 20. Against 11. Carried.

Com. L. Cox S. O.'s Cttee. He mentioned that we did consider at some length the proposal of workshops. The wording was: "Without more information as to their nature the Cttee could not recommend them. Should they prove there be a case for them, we consider that A. D. M. should be the venue." We felt it was safer to implement the new structure of Conf. first before we put in a workshop activity for this year. If next year you want to start the idea of workshops during Conf. session you would probably have to suspend the Conf. because could so seriously have a lack of members in one or the other. Members are advised that there should be a Res. for next year's workshop during Conf., to say something like: 'The E. C. be recommended to instruct S. O. Cttee on X day there will be a period of approximately two hours ' or something like that. We shall have more detailed information so that its easier to implement for next year.

1. Item 22 and 23 consists of Dundee Br. Item for discussion. Review of the Party's progress. The Bristol Br. item for dis. on the revised Conf. arrangements. Glasgow delegates. Qualification of Party membership. Floor Res. Lancaster Br. Moved R. Best. Seconded Maxine Slapper. "This Conf. recommends the E. C. to contact those Brs. with no delegates at this Conf. to provide the following information on the following points: (a) Did they have a special meeting to discuss the Agenda? (b) Did they instruct delegates? (c) If not why not?" Vote: For 30. Against 1. Carried. Also the Floor Res. Page 22 (at least one workshop session) and Floor Res. above (experimental six months Q. and A)

3.45 p.m. TIME

Com. C. Slapper raised a question which comes under Item 23. Review of Party progress and forward thinking and planning. The point of Com. Vanni was concerning the Party might find ways of reducing members to bring into line with the amount of activity. We should be looking at ways of increasing membership. We should not be talking about ways of reducing our Party membership in a negative way but the opposite. The question should be put to other Brs. to ask them in which ways can they participate in either Local or General Elections.

Conf. should be used for much

more positive ideas in thinking and arrangements for future planning.

Bristol Br. Winding up. Com. J. Percy-Smith. We felt it was worth moving this Cttee. We don't in any way want to replace the formal business of Conf. But to suspend the proceedings of Conf. for the workshop to discuss the subjects involved. We would hope that this kind of session would encourage Brs. to send more delegates to Conf., who are currently put off by Conf. at the moment. As Com. Cox said, there are detailed proposals on the workshop. I don't think we should delay any further.

Glasgow Br. Winding up. One point of view by Com. Vanni was expressed that the few members who are the most active in the Br. feel that they are being used, so they cut back their activity. This is a result of too few members getting involved in any sort of Party activity.

Lancaster Br. Winding up on their Res. on the representation of Brs. at Conf. I would like to stress the importance of Conf. knowing what's happening in Brs. and asking these particular Brs. why have they been unable to take part this year.

Islington Br. Res. Insertion of Q. and A. in the S. S. for six months. We propose the same Q. and A. in every issue of the S. S. These are to be put in the inside cover of the S. S. to aim at new members so when they first come into contact they then get an idea of what the socialist case stands for, rather than trying to gather the idea in the articles inside. We should make every chance that readers should understand where we stand in relation to the other so called "Socialist Parties."

COLLECTION was taken at this point in the proceedings. £58.11 P

Item 23 (a). Adoption of Reports - E. C., Party Officers and sub-Cttees.

Moved Com. Vanni (Glasgow Br.) and Seconded Com. H. Cottis (E. London).

Vote: For 31. Against 0. Carried.

Item 24. Com. H. Rose. Fraternal greetings. Regrets she was unable to attend (ill health. Member since 1936). Also Com. Alec Hart, Johannesburg. Telemessage: "Fraternal greetings fruitful enjoyable Conference."

Item 25. Media Statements. Nil.

Item 26. Any other business.

VOTE OF THANKS to the Catering Cttee, Com. Frank Morgan for his excellent work and to the Chairman, Com. G. Slapper.

END OF CONFERENCE. END OF TIME BLOCK H